

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract with:

a1
Certain embodiments of the present invention involve distributing network attributes among the nodes in a network in the situation where the network has an unknown topology. Each attribute can include a key to index the attribute, a value of the attribute, and an incarnation identifier for the value. An attribute can then be distributed among the nodes in a network by registering the attribute to a distributed dictionary that is distributed among the nodes.